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NEWS RELEASES

For Immediate Release: February 9, 2007

UT07-055

SASKATOON TRANSIT TO OFFER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS A UNIVERSAL SCHOOL YEAR BUS PASS

University of Saskatchewan undergraduate students have voted to support a new Saskatoon Transit universal bus pass (UPass) that will provide students unlimited, city-wide bus access from September to May. The vote means students will begin paying a mandatory fee of $118 at the start of each school year beginning in September 2007. The UPass program's success will be assessed after two years.

"University students recognize the fast and convenient service Saskatoon Transit provides, and understand how the new UPass saves them a significant amount of money compared to the current two-semester pass," said Jeff Balon, Saskatoon Transit Manager. "The vote in support of the UPass is great news for both Saskatoon Transit and students at the University."

Students will save $280 a year on their transportation costs throughout the school year. University students currently using Saskatoon Transit pay $199 for a semester pass (for four months), or $398 for a full school year. The new UPass will reduce that price to $118 for a full year. The University of Saskatchewan is Saskatoon Transit's second most popular destination, the most popular is downtown. At peak times, 50 buses per hour go through Place Riel.

Although the new UPass is mandatory for full and part time undergraduate students at the University, students with special circumstances may apply for an exemption from paying the UPass fee. Eligible students for the exemption include those that live outside of city limits, are enrolled in distance education programs, live on campus at one of the residences or have a valid disability parking pass.

For more information on the UPass student program or for Transit routes and schedules, visit www.saskatoon.ca and search under "t" for Transit or call 975-3100.

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